

Motion

tabled by Members of the Bundestag Dr. Hermann E. Ott, Kerstin Müller, Hans-Josef Fell, Bärbel Höhn, Sylvia Kotting-Uhl, Oliver Krischer, Undine Kurth, Nicole Maisch, Dorothea Steiner Cornelia Behm, Harald Ebner, Bettina Herlitzius, Dr. Anton Hofreiter, Stephan Kühn, Ingrid Nestle, Friedrich Ostendorff, Markus Tressel, Daniela Wagner, Dr. Valerie Wilms and the Alliance 90/The Greens parliamentary group

New initiatives for transatlantic cooperation in climate and energy policy

The Bundestag is requested to adopt the following motion:

I. The German Bundestag notes:

Without the USA it will be impossible to meet the challenge of climate change and achieve the target of limiting global warming to a maximum of 2 degrees Celsius. In order to convince the global community – including the emerging economies – to switch to low-carbon economic activity, it is necessary for the USA, too, to demonstrate a very clear commitment.

The EU and Germany therefore have a great interest in supporting the USA in this context.

At the same time, the USA has considerable potential in relation to the development and diffusion of technologies. Working together with the USA is an easier, more efficient and better way of achieving climate change goals.

Because of the long-standing and historic ties linking the USA and Germany, this is an important partnership.

Currently the chances of the USA signing up to an internationally binding climate change agreement are low. This makes it all the more important to press, within the framework of a multi-speed climate change policy involving cooperation at all levels, to persuade the USA to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Those federal states, in particular, which are advanced in this respect have a special role to play.

II. The German Bundestag calls on the Federal Government

- to make climate protection policy a focal point of transatlantic relations;
- to submit a proposal outlining possible initiatives to be used to expand cooperation between the USA and Germany/the EU in order to advance the cause of climate protection. This relates first and foremost to political, technical and scientific aspects of climate change and energy policy;

- to make use in transatlantic relations of European experiences of persuading structurally weak and largely rural Member States to support an ambitious climate policy;
- to substantially expand and consolidate the Transatlantic Climate Bridge founded in 2008. Efforts should be made to strengthen not only the process of exchange at political level but also the transatlantic dialogue between civil society actors such as environmental interest groups, representatives from academia and the education sector and media representatives. German federal states which have affiliations with American states (e.g. Schleswig-Holstein and Maryland, North Rhine-Westphalia and Pennsylvania) should be supported in the implementation of climate change and energy policy initiatives;
- to propose subjects for the agenda of the US-EU Energy Council established in November 2009 which will set in motion a speedy changeover of energy systems on both sides of the Atlantic to renewable and efficient technologies. Priority should be given to climate-friendly, safe technologies such as renewable energies, energy efficiency, electric mobility, green architecture and smart grids, as well as to abolishing fossil fuel subsidies and introducing trade facilitation for climate-friendly products. In addition to these technical questions, attention should also be paid to deciding what political instruments should be used to bring these technologies to market, e.g. feed-in tariffs and trading, top runner programmes, etc.;
- to make proposals on a framework to enable a system of transatlantic emissions trading which is sustainable in terms of climate policy. To the extent that a US-wide emissions trading system is not yet realisable, consideration should be given to possible ways of linking sub-national emissions trading systems in the USA (e.g. RGGI, WCI) with European emissions trading;
- to encourage the US government to work together with the EU to use fora such as the G8, G8+5 and G20 to drive forward the climate protection agenda;
- in its contacts with Members of the US Congress, to draw attention to the need for worldwide climate protection and to the important role played by the USA in this process;
- to argue for a common initiative to promote an ambitious programme for IRENA producing tangible results.

Berlin, 18 October 2011

Renate Künast, Jürgen Trittin and parliamentary group